

Cusimano in Mountain View, California, Joseph and Sue devoted their entire lives to the work of their business, and to the service of their community. For 50 years, Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary has maintained a family-oriented approach to providing mortuary services to the community—a commitment that has been carried on by their children. In 1980, in recognition of the exemplary professional standards and extensive community involvement, the mortuary was invited to join the distinguished association of Selected Independent Funeral Homes.

Joseph and Sue lived their broad and continuing commitment to the service of their community—ranging from the Mortuary's 50-year sponsorship of the local Babe Ruth Little League team to Joseph's service as the Mayor of Mountain View. The generosity of the Cusimanos also extended beyond our community to others in need, as exemplified by their gift of children's caskets to the victims of the 1995 Oklahoma City tragedy.

Joseph and Sue bequeathed both their business and their sense of responsibility to their children. The Cusimano Family Colonial Mortuary is now managed by Matthew and Sherri, who have maintained the spirit of service and community participation that began with their parents 50 years ago. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to congratulate the Cusimano family as they celebrate this special anniversary.

IN HONOR OF VIOLET DE
CRISTOFORO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my district's most outstanding citizens, Violet de Cristoforo. Today, the National Endowment for the Arts will honor Mrs. de Cristoforo with a National Heritage Fellowship Award, our country's highest honor in folk and traditional arts.

Violet de Cristoforo was born Kazue Yamane in Ninole, Hawaii. At the age of 8 she was sent to Hiroshima, Japan for her primary education. Then at the age of 13 she returned to the United States to attend high school in Fresno, California. Upon her graduation Mrs. de Cristoforo married Shigaru Matsuda. It was also around this time that Mrs. de Cristoforo joined the Valley Ginsha Haiku Kai, a local haiku kais, or poetry club, and began focusing on the newer kaiko style that loosened haiku traditional 5-7-5 structure.

With the onset of WWII, Mrs. de Cristoforo, her husband and three children were moved to forced detention facility in Jerome, Arkansas. After her husband refused to complete a questionnaire, the family was split up; Mrs. de Cristoforo and her children were sent to Tule Lake, California, while her husband was sent to a detention facility in Santa Fe, New Mexico. While under forced internment, she wrote hundreds of haikus reflecting on her environment and everyday life in the camps. Sadly, only fifteen of the hundreds of haikus survived upon her release in 1946.

It is important that we recognize Mrs. de Cristoforo not only for her own haikus but for the hard work and dedication she contributed to the preservation, translation and publication

of other haikus of the Japanese culture and life in the forced internment camps. Mrs. Cristoforo's own book, "Poetic Reflections of the Tule Lake Internment Camp, 1944" was published over 40 years after it was originally written. Years later Mrs. de Cristoforo compiled the haikus of many former internment camp poets and published, "May Sky: There's Always Tomorrow: A History and Anthology of Haiku". These poems are not just their history; they are part of our American history, because these people were also Americans.

It is sad that so few of these works survived that time, for not only were many lost in the camps but, prior to their forced detention when many of them were destroyed. At the time Mrs. de Cristoforo and her husband ran a small bookstore in Fresno. This material is forever lost which makes her work that much more important.

Madam Speaker, Violet Kazue de Cristoforo is truly deserving of our thanks and her recognition by the NEA with the National Heritage Fellowship Award is but a small token of appreciation for a lifetime of dedication and sacrifice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. EHLERS, Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 867, 868, and 869, I was delayed because my airplane was very late in reaching DCA, due to weather problems in Minneapolis, and I was too late for the votes.

Had I been present I would have Voted "no" on rollcall No. 867, H.R. 3246; "yes" on rollcalls No. 868 and 869, H.R. 1657 and H.R. 3527.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present in the Capitol on Monday, September 17, 2007 and was unable to cast votes on the House Floor that evening.

However, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007; "aye" on H.R. 1657, a bill to establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs; and "aye" on H.R. 3527, a bill to extend for 2 months the authorities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately last night, September 17, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 3246, H.R. 1657, and H.R. 3527.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 867 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 3246, the Regional Economic and Infrastructure Development Act of 2007, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 868 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 1657, to establish a Science and Technology Scholarship Program to award scholarships to recruit and prepare students for careers in the National Weather Service and in National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration marine research, atmospheric research, and satellite programs, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 869 on H.R. 3527, to extend for two months the authorities of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, I would have voted "aye."

VIETNAM HUMAN RIGHTS ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 17, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3096.

When the U.S. and Vietnam resumed diplomatic relations over 10 years ago, it was the hope of many Americans that by increasing economic ties with Vietnam, we would be a beacon of light that would shine on the human rights atrocities also occurring in Vietnam.

Despite increased U.S. relations, Vietnam has failed to protect the rights of its people. The Vietnamese government controls the press, suppressing the basic, core right of free speech that we as Americans hold to be so vital.

While maintaining fiscal relations with Vietnam is important for a plethora of reasons, the overriding consideration for the U.S. in any relationship with a foreign country should be in evaluating how a foreign country treats its own people. The Vietnamese Communist Party has failed the people of Vietnam, and we fail with them if we refuse to recognize the atrocities occurring every day.

This bill, the Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2007, is an important step in continuing to keep pressure on the Vietnamese Communist Party. As we have learned in addressing human rights issues in numerous countries throughout the world, one of the most effective methods of protecting the rights of others is to hit oppressive regimes where it counts—in their wallets.

Under H.R. 3096, Vietnam would face losing millions in non-humanitarian aid unless the president certifies that Vietnam begins releasing its political prisoners and protecting the basic rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion—rights that we hold self-evident not